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Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 706/House Bill 700- Gaming - Problem Gambling - Prevalence Study and
Fund Revenue-Funding
March 20th, 2025
1:00pm
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and distinguished members of the Ways & Means Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of SB 706 – Gaming - Problem Gambling - Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue**. Senate Bill 706 passed the Senate unanimously and is in the same posture as its cross-file, House Bill 700, heard by this committee on February 13th. I would like to thank the co-sponsors for their support and Delegate Allen for his leadership on House Bill 700.

Senate Bill 706 would direct 1% of sports wagering revenues to the Problem Gaming Fund. This allocation would not affect the 15% distribution to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund (BMFF). As a result, fantasy competition operators and sports wagering licensees would retain 84% of their revenues instead of the current 85%.

The bill also requires the Department of Health to conduct comprehensive prevalence studies on problem and pathological mobile gambling, with the initial study to be completed by July 1, 2030, and follow-up studies conducted at least every five years thereafter. Furthermore, the Secretary of Health would be required to submit an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly detailing how funds are being utilized by the Problem Gaming Program for treatment and prevention programs, ensuring accountability and efficacy.

Senate Bill 706 will ensure that Maryland takes proactive steps in addressing problem gambling while maintaining responsible gaming industry practices. I respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 706**. Thank you for your consideration.